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**Jennifer Chou**  
Reproductive Justice Attorney  
ACLU of Northern California  
39 Drumm Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Sent via email to: [jchou@aclunc.org](mailto:jchou@aclunc.org)

Dear Ms. Chou:

We write to address your letter of September 20. We apologize for the delay as we sought to better understand the situation at Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC).

*UCSF Fresno: History and Partnerships*

As background, UCSF established a residency program in Fresno in 1975. The goal was to create a training program that would increase the number of physicians serving California's Central Valley. As a public institution, we are committed to ensuring access for underserved populations and improving health outcomes. Where a doctor completes his/her residency or fellowship is an important predictor of where they will practice, so our partnership has focused on a residency and fellowship training programs under the name *UCSF Fresno* to help build the physician work force in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition, medical students' clinical clerkships are offered and conducted in close association with the house-staff training programs.

UCSF maintains affiliation agreements with Central California Faculty Medical Group (CCFMG), CRMC, and the VA Central California Healthcare System to provide care in the community and support our educational programs. Via CCFMG, UCSF School of Medicine has appointed over 225 faculty members to support our educational programs in Fresno, although these individuals are not employees of UCSF. In addition, UCSF employs five full-time faculty members who oversee the programs in Fresno. All faculty members have medical staff privileges at CRMC allowing them to provide clinical care at that hospital.

As with all hospitals in California, CRMC's medical staff is a self-governing body and includes both UCSF faculty members and private practice physicians among its members. UCSF Fresno faculty members participate in medical staff governance at CRMC, but they are not the sole voice in medical staff governance. Additionally, governance of CRMC's operations is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees of Community Medical Center (CMC). There are no members of the UCSF faculty on the CMC Board.



*Recent Events*

Recently, a lack of a formal, hospital-wide policy on access to abortion services led to differing interpretations of CRMC's acceptable practice and to conflicting unwritten policies from one unit of the hospital to another. Consequently, this led to proposals to develop a policy regarding abortion services. To date, Community Medical Center's management has not yet drafted or approved a formal policy. Our associate dean, who oversees our training programs in Fresno, has been monitoring the situation at CRMC.

Among other requirements, our affiliation agreement specifies that CRMC provide access to the services and training experiences required by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACGEOG), including comprehensive reproductive services. While other medical facilities in Fresno provide elective abortion services in the ambulatory environment (Planned Parenthood and Family Planning Associates), CRMC is the only facility in Fresno that has provided inpatient elective abortion services.

UCSF has a long history of advocating for reproductive justice. We do not support any limits on abortions that are permitted under state and federal law. Our Associate Dean and School of Medicine leadership have expressed our concerns to CRMC leadership and our expectation is that hospital policy will align with UCSF's commitment to comprehensive reproductive health care.

We thank you for your advocacy on behalf of women in the San Joaquin Valley and share your commitment to ensure that they all have access to the comprehensive care they deserve.

Sincerely,



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Chancellor  
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Dean, School of Medicine  
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Mark R. Laret  
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cc: Vice Chancellor French